

HORACE G. UNDERWOOD (1859-1916)

Horace Grant Underwood was born in London, England. His father was a scientist and a committed Christian. He immigrated to the United States with his family and settled in New Durham, New Jersey in 1872 when young Horace was thirteen. The family attended the Dutch Reformed Church. Underwood graduated from New York University in 1881 and from the theological seminary of the Dutch Reformed Church at New Brunswick, New Jersey in 1884.

Underwood was commissioned as a single missionary by the Northern Presbyterian Church and sent to Korea, landing in Inchon with a Methodist missionary couple, Rev. and Mrs. Henry G. Appenzeller on Easter, April 5, 1885. He was the first Presbyterian clergyman to take up missionary work in Korea.

After assisting a medical missionary doctor, Dr. Horace N. Allen, for a short time, he opened an orphanage for boys in Seoul's Chong Dong district in 1886 which later developed into the Kyong Shin Boys High School.

In 1887 Underwood organized the first Protestant Church in Korea with 14 charter members. In 1889 he married Lillias S. Horton, M.D. who had reached Korea the previous year as a Presbyterian medical missionary. A tireless evangelist who itinerated widely, he was also deeply engaged in literary work and in the translation of the Scriptures with other missionary colleagues.

At the first General Assembly of the Korean Presbyterian Church in 1912, Underwood was elected to be the moderator. In 1915 he founded Chosen Christian College (now Yonsei University) and served as its first president until his death in 1916. His son, Horace Horton Underwood, succeeded his father as president of the college. Today the third and fourth generations of the Underwood family are carrying on in Korea a faithful missionary heritage. The Underwood family is one of the most widely known and most distinguished Presbyterian missionary families in Korea.

Clark, Allen D., *A History of the Church in Korea*, Seoul, C.L.S., 1971.

Hunt, Everett N., Jr., *Protestant Pioneers in Korea*, Maryknoll, N.Y., Orbis Press, 1980.

Paik, Lak-Geon George, *The History of Protestant Missions in Korea, 1832-1910*, Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 1970 (revised edition).

Underwood, Lillias H., *Underwood of Korea*, New York: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1918.

Huntley, Martha, *To Start a Work: The Foundations of Protestant Mission in Korea (1884-1919)*, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Seoul, Korea, 1987.

Rhodes, Harry A. *History of the Korea Mission, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., 1884-1934*, Seoul: Korea Mission, PCUSA, 1934.



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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Members of the Korea Mission, Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
Please type or print. For dates, give year, month, day

1. Name in full Horace Grant Underwood

Place of birth Seoul, Korea Date of birth 1917, October 11

2. Parents: Father's Name Horace Horton Underwood

Mother's maiden name Ethel VanWagoner

3. Your marriage: to whom: Joan Vida Davidson Date 1941, July 10

4. Education:

a. Secondary: Name of school Seoul Foreign School Yrs. of study 1931-33

" " Polytechnic Prep.C.D.S. " " 1933-35
(Brooklyn, N.Y.)

b. College or Univ. Name Hamilton College Yrs. 1935-39 degree AB

" " " _____ " _____ " _____

c. Special schools: Name _____ " _____ " _____

" _____ " _____ " _____

d. Post graduate: School NYU, School of Ed " 1953-55 " MA

" _____ " _____ " _____

e. Honorary degrees

Name of institution _____ Degree granted _____

" " _____ " " _____

5. Pre-Mission work

Kind of work Teaching Place Seoul How long? 3 yrs

Kind of work Registrar, Seoul Nat. Univ. Place Seoul How long? 1 yr

6. Date of appointment by Board of Foreign Missions 1947

Regular member, short term, affiliated, state which Regular

Date of first arrival in Korea as a missionary 1 Sept 1947

Service in other missions: What mission? none Years _____

What mission? _____ Years _____

7. Date of resignation _____ Date of retirement _____

Date of death _____ Place of death _____

8. Children:

a. Name Horace Horton Underwood Birthdate 43/3/29 Place Boulder, Colo.

b. Name William David Underwood Birthdate 53/8/2 Place Yokohama, Japan

c. Name Peter Alexander Underwood Birthdate 55/5/5 Place New York, N.Y.

d. Name _____ Birthdate _____ Place _____

e. Name _____ Birthdate _____ Place _____

f. Name _____ Birthdate _____ Place _____

g. Name _____ Birthdate _____ Place _____

h. Name _____ Birthdate _____ Place _____

Name, date, place of children deceased _____

9. Names and addresses of near relatives:

a. John T. Underwood, c/o Presby. Bd. of Foreign Missions, 156 5th Ave.
New York, N.Y. (brother)

James H. Underwood, Presbyterian Manse, Hancock, N.Y. (brother)

b. Richard F. Underwood, Box 25, Navy #3928, FPO San Francisco, Cal (bro)

c. Mrs. J.W. Hawkness, 9844 W. Argonne Drive, Milwaukee 16, Wisc. (sister)

10. War service, regular or civilian:

a. Branch of service U.S. Navy Where? Pacific Theater

Office or title Lieutenant Dates 1942-1946

b. Branch of service U.S. Navy Where? Korea

Office or title Lieutenant Dates 1950-1953

11. Additional biographical comments:

Son and grandson of Korea missionaries

12. Furloughs, regular

(1) Date of departure from Korea _____ Date of return Aug 1955

Furlough residence 47 Claremont Ave. New York 27, N.Y.

Activities and assignments, give details (study should also be noted under education) Study at N.Y. Univ. Speaking in Eastern Area

(Leave of absence, July 1950 - Nov. 1953, Nov. 1954- July 55
(war service) (study extension)

(2) Date of departure from Korea _____ Date of return _____

Furlough residence _____

Activities and assignments, give details _____

(3) Date of departure from Korea _____ Date of return _____

Furlough residence _____

Activities and assignments, give details _____

(4) Date of departure from Korea _____ Date of return _____

Furlough residence _____

Activities and assignments, give details _____

(5) Date of departure from Korea _____ Date of return _____

Furlough residence _____

Activities and assignments, give details _____

(6) Date of departure from Korea _____ Date of return _____

Furlough residence _____

Activities and assignments, give details _____

13. Health or leave-of-absence furloughs, state which and give dates:

(1) Leave of absence, Korean War service, July 1950-Nov 1953

(2) Leave of absence, study extension, ~~Jul~~ Nov 1954-July 55

(3) _____

14. What special assignments have you had?

(a) By the Board. Nature of assignment _____

_____ Year _____

Nature of assignment _____

_____ Year _____

(b) By the Mission: Nature of assignment _____

_____ Year _____

Nature of assignment _____

_____ Year _____

15. Offices in the Mission

(a) Statistician _____ Year 1948-50

(b) Statistician _____ Year 1955-56

(c) _____ Year _____

16. Additional comments supplementing the above:

Date September 23 1955

Signed *Herbert H. Wood*

Name Horace G. Underwood

Please describe your work in the Korea Mission:

<u>Years Worked</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Type of Work Done</u>
1947-50	Seoul	<u>Educational-at CCU</u> Work with faculty and admin to try to improve educational and religious programs. Work with Student "Y" to try to improve student Christian activities Misc. CLS Board and Ex.Com., Station Property Co.,, . Taechon Beach Construction, CCU dollar treasurer, etc.
1955 -	Seoul	<u>Educational, at CCU</u> Anticipate similar assignments as before.

Please state what work you have done with union institutions & Committees:

Almost entirely Union Institution work - Especially CCU.
Committees indicated on reverse

If you have done any literary work, please give titles and dates of publication:

none

KEYS

to our lives

KOREA has had a bad year, with a number of disasters and the scandal of former President Roh's "slush fund". The soul-searching is still going on but through all the dismay is a recognition that the very revelations are a sign of progress toward openness, and a hope that the shock to the public will bring fundamental changes in Korean life and ways of doing business. In the meantime Korea continues to "progress". The last few years have seen the building of whole new cities around all of the major metropolises as the population grows (over 44 million now) and land becomes more precious. Traffic has become a nightmare as rising standards of living bring 500 more vehicles to the streets every day. There has been little apparent change in the stand-off with North Korea. By all reports the economic situation there has deteriorated almost to the disaster stage, while they still blow cold and colder (one cannot say it is ever warm) on the nuclear reactor agreement and on the joint development zone on the border with China and Russia. The cold war may be over, but rivalries are not.

EWHA maintains its position as the leading Korean university for women. The emphasis this year has been on improving standards in every field - recruitment, teaching, research, facilities, training for employment possibilities. Much is made of Ewhaians who have "made it" in a broad spectrum of activities. The desire for more streamlining at every level has led to a tremendous burden of paper-work for individual professors, militating somewhat against the demand for more and higher standards of research. There is increased emphasis on the evangelization of the campus, especially among students. Many departments (including in the College of Music) have weekly prayer groups for students, faculty, graduate students and staff. For the first time ever two girls representing a consortium of Christian groups are vying for the leadership of the entire student body. The government's call for educational reform has been heard by willing ears, and many aspects of the university's life will change in 1996 and 1997. In Music, it is predicted that students will no longer enter departments but only by their major field. Unfortunately, Church Music is not seen by more than two of us as a viable form for a major, and it is expected that by 1997 it will be dropped. (That will be D's final year of teaching before retirement.) It is hoped that a system of double majors may be introduced from the 3rd year of study, at which time especially organ and voice majors could apply to do Church Music. If this can be worked out, a strongly-based course of study could lead to further work at the post-graduate level. D's choirs have been very busy this year, especially the Collegium Musicum, which has received many requests to sing on and off campus. The group of 26 girls has worked hard and developed very much in the past 6 months. Dorothy conducted on 12 different occasions during November alone (apart from regular church services) and there are more coming up in December.

YONSEI, too, is in the throes of reorganization and reform as it tries to gird up its loins to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, and more important, the challenges of attaining "advanced nation" status. The changing political, economic and social scenes all demand a reorientation. As usual, part of the change is in bricks and mortar, as new buildings, new facilities and new roads are added, but more fundamental are changes in opportunity, flexibility and the quality of research and teaching. Starting in 1995 the university pre-selected some students for admission on the basis of high school records, releasing at least that number from the "examination hell" syndrome that plagues Korean students. The system is to be expanded each year, and other universities are beginning to follow Yonsei's lead. The International Division, led by son Horace H., is thriving with over a thousand foreign students on our campus each year in the various programs. Horace G. continues on the Board of the university and many of its committees, particularly those having to do with building, besides activity in a number of church and community organizations such as the Korea UNESCO Committee, The Korean Bible Society, hospital and school boards, etc.

SAEMUNAN remains as the center of our church life. Dorothy continues to conduct the "Women's Choir" that sings every Wednesday evening and on many other occasions as well. Several major celebrations have lifted our hearts. In late August the Presbyterian Women's Association celebrated the ordination of women as both elders and ministers of the word. The General Assembly passed the action in 1994 but it had to be approved by a majority of Presbyteries and two-thirds of the total votes cast in the Presbyteries - and both passed with large margins. A few days later the eight largest Presbyterian denominations worshiped together for the first time since the splits began in the 1940s. This is a long way from unity, but a giant step forward in cooperation. Then in November the Korean Bible Society celebrated its centennial. Overseas visitors included the grandsons of John Ross and Henry Appenzellar, who joined the grandsons of SUH, Sang-yoon and the first Horace Underwood (early translators) in one of the ceremonies. Perhaps because of the step forward in the ordination of women, the role of the "kwonsa", at least at Saemunan, has been sharply reduced. Formerly considered roughly equivalent to elders for spiritual leadership they are now viewed by the elders as mere senior women with no collective role.

The real KEYS to our lives, of course, are our love for Jesus Christ and our desire to serve Him in this land. The church has grown strong in many ways, but just as the churches of Australia and America feel the need for person to person sharing from other lands in life and work, so too the Korean churches need the kind of sharing that can come, not through Letters of Agreement between denominations, but only when people live and work together.

Merry Christmas, 1995

Dorothy + Horace

Dorothy and Horace Underwood

Copy of a Letter from Dr. Horace A. Underwood, November 19, 1945

Dear Dr. Hooper:

Your letter of October 19 to my temporary APO just got here today. Hereafter your letters will come thru in ten days to two weeks from observation of my wife's letters.

I understand from her that she has already transmitted to you information in my previous letters which will largely answer some of your questions.

Churches are all suffering from "shock." Many were closed; none was allowed more than one service a week. All leaders were under pressure, if not persecution. Some died; some were practically exiled; some fled; some attempted to hold on by minor compromises so that they might serve their charges. Many Christians were frightened away from churches; others refused to attend where objectionable features offended them; others could not understand Japanese, which was insisted on in some localities. Liberation came as a wonderful surprise. Attendance is steadily increasing almost everywhere; people are beginning to get together and think and plan a little. Some leaders are under severe criticism; sometimes in the church, sometimes from outside. The country is cut in two. No representatives can come from north of 38 except by stealth and on foot with risk of loss of everything they have on them. The churches were not united until almost the end of the war. Then it was done, and Mr. Kim Kwan Sik was made head of the United Church. As soon as possible after liberation he called a meeting of the Exec. Comm. (?) and resigned. No one now knows whether the churches will wish to separate into M. E. and Presbyterian or remain united. A number of prominent laymen have told me that "the majority of the laymen want one church" but that many of the pastors wish to break up into original churches. Of course, Holiness and such groups will pull out, but some of us hope that M. E. and Presbyterian will stay together. Drs. Norton and Shafer will have told you their impression. No real plans can be made so long as (1) country is cut in two by 38, (2) until Military Government can bring some semblance of order out of present chaos. Severance and C.C.C. are functioning, at least after a fashion. Former J. D. Wells School is going on well and doing good work. We have received or are receiving custody of most of the real estate, P.M.B.S., C.L.S., Mission residences, etc., etc. Again we know nothing and are not permitted to go north of 38. We are told that Russians are stripping country, taking everything of value. Seoul Girls' School was taken over and away and name changed. Building is now temporarily occupied by a Boys' School, to which I have given permission to stay thru winter if it can find no other place. Alumnae of Girls' School are anxious to reopen. I told them (1) I could not speak with authority; (2) I understood that Board would probably not enter into creation of "Mission" schools again; (3) if they made adequate plans for reopening school, Board would probably be very sympathetic and might (a) allow use of buildings, (b) supply American teacher or teachers, (c) possibly give some subsidy--but that none of these was certain and would depend on their plans and their reception by Mission and Board.

Property Damage: It is quite true that damage is not so great as we had feared. However, a rough estimate on paint and immediate plumbing repairs, etc., for Yondong houses came to over ₩100,000. At present rate of exchange, that is over \$6,000 and does not begin to cover what must be done. Part of the grounds is riddled by ill-constructed bombshelters which are in danger of caving in. Electric lights, wiring, phones, new and adequate plumbing, new floors in many cases, probably almost new roofs in many cases and completely new furniture must be provided. There is nothing here. I am trying to buy Mrs. Kjaebe's furniture for Board if Military

Government will permit it. It is to cost about ¥4,700, which is very cheap. If Board doesn't want it, I will keep it for myself. But it will give missionaries one or two beds, chairs, and tables to begin with. Prices here are atrocious, and arbitrary exchange does not begin to represent the real rate, which is nearer 80-1. If the Board expects to help institutions like Severance and C.C.C. and C.L.S., further thousands of dollars will be needed, even if we recover soon from present inflation. Probably cheapest will be to buy in America and ship out almost everything, as there is little to be bought here even at any price. For a time we may have to go back to the old system of large-scale grocery orders for even food. Hope to make some arrangements for the first group to eat off the Army in some way. We are hoping Bigger will be here soon, as Horton and my letters will have told you.

I am losing my machine temporarily, so must close. Will answer Dr. Decker's letter later. I start on Government tour of South Korea tomorrow morning and will be gone over a week. All Koreans, Christians and many others want missionaries back.

Hastily,

Horace H. Underwood

Dr. Horace H. Underwood
 Hq. XXIV Corps, Military Government
 A.P.O. 235, c/o Postmaster
 San Francisco, California